[28th February 1928

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 1622 asked by Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1928, page 111 supra.]

G.O. No. 513 I., dated 21st December 1909.

READ—the following paper :—

Extract from the address of the Tanjore District Association, Kumbakonam, dated 5th February 1908, *presented to His Excellency the Governor of Madras at the time of his visit to the Tanjore district in February* 1908.

* * * *

3. *Regarding the Public Works Department.*—This district has been famous for its Grand Anicut erected at the entrance of the district by the Chola Dynasty; this dam was built to conserve the waters of the Cauvery river for the irrigation of this district. It is a work the construction of which has exacted the admiration of the British Engineers The late Sir Arthur Cotton supplemented this grand work by the erection of another dam a few miles higher up and secured a larger quantity of water for the irrigation of the districts of Trichinopoly and Tanjore. Some years ago another dam was erected across the Cauvery near the Grand Anicut for regulating the irrigation of the lands of Tanjore. These anicuts have been of great use to this district and mostly contributed to the immense increase of land revenue. The last-mentioned work bifurcates the Cauvery water into two volumes for the irrigation of the lands of Tanjore situated in higher and lower levels. From these two streams branch off many rivers, and these rivers feed thousands of channels of large and small lengths for watering the lands of several villages. The agriculturists feel thankful to the Government for these measures. These are regulated in some places by smaller dams Since the erection of the dam across the Cauvery near the Grand Anicut, scouring sluices that originally existed and were constructed to discharge sand into the Coleroon have been closed. The beds of the Cauvery and its branches and channels have been raised, thereby diminishing the quantity of their contents, washing away valuable lands of the people. This matter has often been brought to the notice of the Public Works Department authorities, both Local and Provincial, and they, though very sympathetic and active, have not yet been able to devise a remedy. The ryots suffer from too large a volume of water during the floods and too small a quantity in other parts of the year. The aforesaid channels used to be cleared of their accumulated sand very often, by former Governments from time immemorial, and by the British Government also. This fact has been proved beyond doubt by a circular issued by the Collector of Tanjore, dated 8th June 1865. Somehow or other this ancient custom and the right and privilege of the ryot have been held in abeyance of late to the great injury of the ryot. Many complaints against this omission and petitions praying for these repairs have not yet been heard. Thus irrigation and drainage of the cultivated lands have been endangered The ryots pray to your Excellency's Government to order that the irrigation and drainage sources be placed in a better condition in conformity to the immemorial custom and the ancient rights and privileges of the district. The local officers very often assign as a reason for not placing them in efficient order, that they have no funds allotted for the purpose in the budget; and your Excellency is aware that the people have no control over the assignments in the budget.

* * * *

28th February 1928]

ENCLOSURE

Notification No. 3, dated 8th June 1865.

The attention of the Executive Officers and Agents and others whom it may concern is called to the following rules relative to repairs to tanks and channels :—

Regarding repairs of tanks and channels.

I. Channels which irrigate less than 25 velies to be cleared in kudimaramat.

Vide District Gazette, 22nd March 1862, page 129.

II. No minor channel as a general rule to be declared by Government if the estimate falls within 5 per cent of the revenue derived from the channel.

Vide District Gazette, 22nd March 1862, page 129.

III. No large channel to be cleared by Government if the estimate falls short of 1½ per cent of the revenue derived from the channel.

Rules for village labour, circular order book, Public Works Department, page 52.

IV. No repair to minor tanks or channels to be carried out by Government if the estimated amount is less than Rs. 25.

Chief Engineer's Standing Circular No. CXXXI, dated 26th December 1860.

V. No tank or channel to be repaired by Government oftener than once in five years.

Chief Engineer's Mis. Circular No. XIX, dated 23rd August 1861.

Masonry works form an exception to the above rules.

(Sd.) G. LEE MORRIS,
Collector.

Order—No. 513 I., dated 21st December 1909.

The Government have taken into careful consideration the complaint in the address of the Tanjore District Association read above.

2. Many of the highest engineering authorities, including Colonel A. W. Smart, R.E., late Chief Engineer for Irrigation, who had an intimate knowledge of Tanjore irrigation, are of opinion that the clearance of silt in channels is without permanent practical benefit, and that to deal effectively with the silt problem it is necessary to effect such alterations in the channels as will prevent the accumulation of silt. The Government in accepting this view have in the last twelve years spent no less than 18 lakhs of rupees on permanent improvements, such as remodelling the Upper Anicut and converting solid into open dams, works mainly designed to reduce floods and silting. Owing to this the capital expenditure on the Cauvery system which had remained constant for many years was more than doubled; while in the same period the cost of maintenance has also been doubled thus showing that the irrigation system has been in no way neglected.

3. The address refers to a circular of 1865 issued by the then Collector Mr. Lee Morris; the Government have perused this circular and observe that it is mainly negative in character and apparently intended chiefly for the purpose of enforcing kudimaramat which, it is feared, is not practised to its former extent.

[28th February 1928

4. With reference to the statement in the address that the repair of channels at the expense of Government has been the custom and the right and the privilege of the ryot, Government are advised that they are not under any legal obligation to repair Government irrigation works. If there be any liability to repair, it lies rather on those who are entitled to enjoy the water from each irrigation work. Under Madras Act I of 1858, the ryots are legally bound to contribute labour for the execution of works for the purpose of irrigation or drainage which have by local custom been usually executed by the joint labour of the village community. Any neglect or failure to perform this obligation disentitles them to the grace of Government in the way of remissions.

5. The Government are not prepared to lay down specifically what is or what is not included in kudimaramat, but as it is understood that all channels in the Tanjore delta over which the Government at present exercise control in the matter of maintenance are now in charge of the Public Works Department, the Superintending Engineer will, in consultation with the Collector, prepare and submit for the orders of Government a complete list of channels which may conveniently, in their opinion, be maintained by Government. These channels, subject to any future modification of the list that the Government may consider necessary, will be in the direct and immediate charge of the Public Works Department, and all other channels will be left to be maintained by the ryots under kudimaramat

(True extract)

C. A. Smith,
Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the President, District Association, Tanjore.
,, Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar, B.A., B.L., C.I.E.
,, Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, Superintending Engineer, V Circle.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).
,, Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

Appendix V.

[Vide item II " Communications to the Council " at page 121 supra.]

[Vide answer to Legislative Council question No. 1469 answered at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 25th January 1928.]

Letter from the Inspector-General of Registration, dated the 20th January 1928, No. 175–Est./27.

I enclose a statement showing particulars of appointments of Probationary Sub-Registrars and clerks made during the year 1927. Out of 28 appointments of Probationary Sub-Registrars 13 were Telugus and 13 were Tamilians. Probationary Sub-Registrars are on a provincial scale and are recruited with reference to linguistic requirements. Telugus are already over-represented as there are 176 Telugu Sub-Registrars and 25 Probationary